

# COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Davis Continues Push for National Guard Empowerment**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Tom Davis (R-Va.), chairman of the House Government Reform Committee, said today he applauds the National Guard and its supporters who presented banners of signatures to senators at Capitol Hill news conference, and he hopes to enact legislation that would give the Guard the tools it needs to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Davis introduced legislation in July to strengthen the national Guard by making the Chief of the National Guard Bureau a 4-star general and member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and giving the Guard budgetary authority to acquire essential equipment and a seat at the table at the Pentagon for all important decisions that affect it, and improving the Guard's ability to respond to emergencies at home and abroad.

The National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) strongly supported the bipartisan legislation, which had 84 cosponsors. NGAUS members attending the organization's General Conference this week in Albuquerque, N.M., sent the banners, 3,000 electronic letters in less than 48 hours and hundreds of phone calls to convince Congress to pass the legislation.

A House-Senate conference committee negotiating the Department of Defense authorization bill for FY 2007 is debating whether to include the Guard empowerment language. Davis is leading the fight for inclusion on the House side, and Sens. Kit Bond, R-Mo., and Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., are leading in the Senate.

"We stand with the National Guard because it has stood with us," Davis said. "The Guard has played a critical role in the security of our homeland. It has earned this."

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